

Human Relations Task Force

Tuesday, April 5, 2011

Minutes

I. Roll Call: 6:45PM

Present: Dagley, Dekle, Garrick, Goldenberg, Inouye, Jackle, Nees, Rodriguez

Late: Dekle, Rodriguez, Goldenberg

Absent: Chancellor; Police Liaison Sgt. Smith

Staff Liaison: Kuhnke

II. Welcoming Remarks by Ken Inouye, Chair

Inouye welcomed HRTF members to the April meeting

III. Public Comments:

Past Mayor and former Council Liaison Ralph Bauer thanked the HRTF for successfully nominating him to receive the Orange County Human Relations (OCRC) Community Leader Award and congratulated Dagley for arranging for Elva Trevino Hart as the HB Reads featured author this year. He was pleased to learn that Ocean View High School has begun to participate in the OCHR Bridges program. Mr. Bauer noted that he is working to bring Oak View Community residents into the larger community. He wants young people in that community to have the same opportunities to succeed that he had as a son of supportive immigrant parents.

IV. Motion to Approve Minutes: March 1, 2011

Moved by Jackle, Seconded by Goldenberg

Approved 8, No 0, Absent 1 (Chancellor)

V. Special Reports/Presentations: None

VI. Status Reports:

1. Report of HRTF Donation Account balance

Kuhnke reported a current balance of \$1,276.64, with \$500 committed and unpaid to HB Reads.

2. Report of Hate Crimes/Incidents

In the absence of Sgt. Smith, Kuhnke described two recent incidents:

a) St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church - vandalized by graffiti a second time in the past year.

b) While a group of police officers were making an arrest, the suspect singled out the one black officer, using slanderous racial names. Follow-up letters were sent for both incidents.

3. Report of Orange County Human Relations (OCHR) News/Activities

Inouye reported that the OCHR will become a contracting agency with the County of Orange, so it will no longer receive funding from them or be an official part of the county government. However the OC Board of Supervisors is expected to continue cooperating with OCHR. HRTF members were encouraged to attend the Awards 40 banquet on May 5, 2011.

4. Report of HB Coordinating Council Activities

Jackle reported that the speaker at the April meeting was Daniel McQuaid, President of OneOC (www.OneOC.org), which provides resources, training, consulting services, and volunteer matching services to OC nonprofit organizations, usually for a fee. McQuaid discussed ways nonprofits could adapt and raise funds in this challenging environment. Garrick was nominated as HBCC President-elect.

Jackle also reported that the March meeting featured an interfaith panel coordinated by Garrick, with representatives from 8 faith groups including Rev. Dr. Peggy Price, Maria Khani, Fr. Christian Mondor, etc., plus former Mayor Shirley Dettloff. Jackle suggested that the Greater HB Interfaith Council could be a good partner with us, and that we need to be aware of their activities.

VII. Updates, Planning, and Possible Motions pertaining to the following events/programs:

1. Report of HRTF Student Representative Programs

In the absence of HRTF Education Chair Chancellor, Garrick reported on the successful "Day of Dialogue" event held March 15, 2011 which was attended by 31 students from six of the seven HBUHSD high schools plus adults. Don Han of the OCHR capably facilitated the training, which emphasized experiential learning. Council Member Shaw presented a completion certificate signed by Mayor Carchio. Other attendees or visitors included Chancellor & Garrick (event coordinators), Inouye, Nees, Kuhnke, HB Reads Chair Fred Provencher, and faculty advisors. HRTF members discussed suggestions for event follow-up actions with the students and schools.

2. Report of HB Reads Activities & Main Event held on March 24, 2011

Dagley reported that the HB Reads author events featuring Elva Trevino Hart were very successful. About 600 high school students attended the morning event, 47 donors attended the fundraising reception at Ralph Bauer's home, and about 105 attended the evening program at HB High School gym. The prior evening, Mrs. Hart conducted an interactive event in Spanish at the Oak View Library with about 70 Hispanic residents. In appreciation, Mrs. Hart refunded \$1,000 of her fees, and offered to return at her own expense in the fall to meet again with Oak View residents and high school students, and to conduct writing classes for students and the public. Dagley estimated that just over \$10,000 was raised from all sources. Rodriguez and others congratulated Dagley for his great success in fundraising and arranging for the author visit.

3. Report of Federal Diversity Month planning and activities

Dekle and Dagley of the HRTF's Diversity/Heritage Month Committee presented a preliminary proposal to conduct a "Unity in the Community" Cultural Festival, preferably in October at the HB Pier Plaza with City co-sponsorship. The proposal described the cultural festival concept, support required, publicity, volunteers needed, potential sponsors, student involvement, and information on similar successful festivals in other cities. HRTF members discussed the proposal, made constructive suggestions, and expressed support for taking next steps to plan and assess the feasibility of the event.

Motion: That the Diversity/Heritage Month Committee be allowed to contact anyone in the City necessary to assess the feasibility of going forward with the "Unity in the Community" program.

***Moved by Nees, Seconded by Rodriguez
Approved 8, No 0, Absent 1 (Chancellor).***

4. Report of HRTF Fundraising Activities

Dagley distributed two fundraising letters to discuss, one for potential business sponsors and another for potential individual donors. HRTF members suggested that the letterhead include names of well-known local leaders and describe how donations would be used. Ralph Bauer offered to provide names of well-known leaders for the letterhead, and their phone numbers for follow-up by HRTF members. The consensus was that the letters with suggested changes were fine, and that Dagley should continue to prepare for a fundraising campaign.

VIII. New Business and Possible Motion Pertaining to:

1. Review and consideration of hate related incidents against Muslims over the past year and whether there is need for the HRTF to develop specific programming.

Inouye stated that with the upcoming 10-year anniversary of 911 that there may be an increase in hate crimes directed towards those who even appear to be Middle Eastern. He cited a recent incident in Yorba Linda and the bullying of Sikh children. Inouye would like the HRTF to consider whether there is a need within Huntington Beach to develop a program and would like to survey the Muslim community to collect more information.

Motion: That Inouye survey the local situation relative to discrimination against people of the Muslim faith to see if there is a role for the HRTF to play.

***Moved by Goldenberg, Seconded by Dekle
Approved 8, No 0, Absent 1 (Chancellor)***

IX. Task Force Member Comments:

Several general comments were made, and Inouye thanked everyone for their continuing contributions. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM to *May 3, 2011, at 6:45 PM at Huntington Central Library, B Room*